

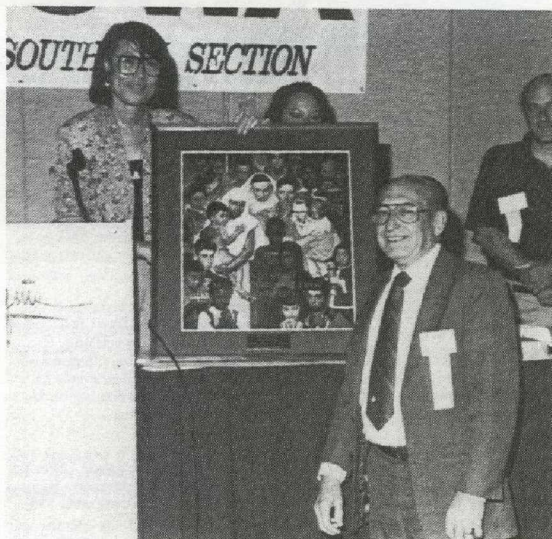


INTERCOM

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF CHILD WELFARE AND ATTENDANCE

William Booth, Editor--2937 E. San Gabriel, Fresno, CA 93726



CASCWA SETS DIRECTIONS FOR 1993-94

SPECIAL SECTION ON VOUCHERS

CASCWA PRESIDENT CITES CHALLENGES FOR 1993-94



LILLIE WILSON
State President
CASCWA

Working to secure the welfare of all children through collaboration, dissemination of information training and leadership.

Each year CASCWA faces new challenges. The 1993-94 school year presents, along with its many challenges, the opportunity to restructure the manner in which the association promotes the service of child welfare and attendance and raises the professional knowledge level of those who work in this field.

Site administrators, assistant superintendents responsible for educational programs and services and school board members all share in the responsibility for meeting the child welfare and attendance needs of

children in our schools. It is imperative that they be kept abreast of the laws, programs and services that address the needs of our continuously changing diverse student population. No organization can do this better than CASCWA.

All CASCWA Sections will be reaching out to site administrators and other appropriate school personnel and board members to provide them with the opportunity to keep up, learn, grow, and better serve the children who represent our future.

Resources are dwindling. District office staff are becoming fewer. Legislative mandates and due process provisions are ever-changing and the need to have an education populous continues to be an absolute necessity in a democracy. These are but a few of challenges we face.

CASCWA is the vehicle through which all school staff who are providing and or have responsibility for child welfare and attendance services, can best stay informed and benefit from the leadership, training, collaboration and sharing provided by the Association. Together, we can make the many challenges we face a lot lighter and there-by better secure the welfare of all children.

Speaking of challenges, none looms greater than the California Voucher Initiative. Though perhaps well intended by many of its proponents, few, I am sure, have given thought to the fact that vouchers allow all private schools, including cult schools, to be funded by tax dollars. Once the door is open, you can't step back and say, "Oh, we did not mean to include certain groups". No matter how extreme their views may be, they have the same rights as any other private school. Likewise, they have the same right to voucher tax dollars. Do they (voucher proponents) really understand what they are asking for?

Providing choice within public schools is a viable option and can be accomplished through such legislation as AB1114 and AB19, 1993. The people of the State of California should not hasten to create a system that is antithetical to all of the principals and beliefs upon which this nation was founded.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Conference in Sacramento (Rancho Cordova) on October 6, 7 and 8. There will be many outstanding workshops as well as an opportunity for a breather to network and enjoy the opportunity to learn and grow together.

See you in Sacramento (Rancho Cordova).



DELTA SIERRA PLANS FOR "NETWORKING UNLIMITED"



CHRIS MIZANI
President
Delta Sierra

Hello Everyone!

It is that time again for the new school year. We hope your summer was a good one for all of our members.

This summer has been a real bitter-sweet time for Delta-Sierra. We lost one of our most cherished and loved members. Dale Turner died very suddenly in June. Her death has left a huge empty spot for us, and basically is still unbelievable. Dale was instrumental in CASCWA, Delta Sierra Section, and as a friend to all of us. Her presence is missed and will forever be remembered.

On a lighter note our Fall Conference entitled "Networking Unlimited" is coming up October 6-8th. I would like to THANK our conference committee, Don Smith, Carolyn Salter, May Powell, and Richard Davis. They are all driven!! The fantastic Sheraton Hotel is the site, which is close to Old Town Folsom, and the Factory Outlet Malls. The Executive Board meet there and was very pleased with the facility. There will be plenty of activities for everyone after the workshops are done. This is going to be exciting and different. We are very happy to have a great line-up of Keynote Speakers, informative and intensive Workshops, and a wonderful bus trip planned for the Hiatus in Lake Hoe. (This is a reminder that the bus reservations have to be made early because it is limited space). We can not get an extra bus the day of the event!! Get those reservations in early!

This is a reminder to all MEMBERS this conference will be a wonderful way to introduce new educators, support staff, and administrators to our organization; and besides what a great way to start the new school year. Extend an invitation to all. Hope to see you all here in wonderful Sacramento.

OUT 'N ABOUT RETIREES

At the state Executive Board Meeting in Palm Springs on May 1, 1993, Southern Section bestowed Honorary Life Membership upon Jack Erickson, Clyde Powell and Ruth Battle. Congratulations. Jim and Bev Milner celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary in Honolulu, Hawaii. They also toured Maui and the big island.



RICH DAVIS
Special Projects

Jack Erickson is spending much of his time revising the Laws Related to Minors and working on the other publications related to Child Welfare and Attendance. Ed Harding recently took a cruise to Mexico and the Vancouver Islands. Steve Elish is enjoying his grandchildren and enjoying good health.

Fred Carter visited the Carolinas. He has always been a Blue Devil fan. Joe O'Sullivan is still playing golf and dabbling in real estate. Carl Prickett moved to Roseburg, Oregon and is still active in show business. He recently had a significant role in a Perry Mason series. When not acting, he is golfing and relaxing on the Umpqua and Rogue Rivers. Please save some salmon for me.

Delta/Sierra

Alicia Moran is doing well and still active with the association. She is currently helping with the planning of their state fall conference. Sara Ray Wiley is still living in The Dalles, Oregon and is doing real well.

COVER PICTURES: CASCWA's 1993-1994 Officers are sworn in at Palm Springs; President Bob Brazil receives a token of CASCWA's appreciation for past year's efforts; Jean Stovall receives CASCWA's State Distinguished Service Award Rancho Cordova Sheraton awaits all comers for the Delta Sierra sponsored CASCWA Spring Conference October 6-8.

She and Roscoe took Dolores and me to The Point on the Oregon trail where pioneers made major decisions whether to continue on land to Oregon City or go by raft on the Columbia River to Vancouver. We had an excellent history lesson on the trails and hardships of the brave people who survived the Oregon Trail experience.

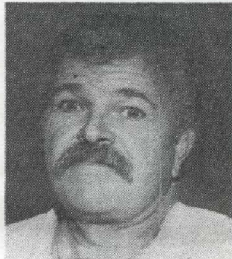
Bay Section

Francis Tucker is currently touring Greece. After a week on land he will spend another week cruising the beautiful Aegean Sea. He stated that they really enjoyed Istanbul and are having a great time.

Yours truly returned August 1st from a trip to Canada and the Northwest. From Anacortes, Washington, we took a ferry through the San Juan Straits to Sidney, Vancouver Island. After a week of fishing the Campbell River for Tyes and Coho salmon we returned to Victoria for a short R&R. We returned to the states via Port Angeles, Washington. Returning down the west coast we fished for salmon at Westport, Washington, Winchester Bay, Oregon and finally Brookings, Oregon. We had a great time fishing for salmon and visiting friends along the way.

I am deeply saddened by the sudden loss of a very dear friend and colleague, Dale Turner of Delta/Sierra section, who passed away on June 19, 1993. I will miss her very much.

SAN JOAQUIN PLANS FALL SECTION CONFERENCE



AL BAUM
President
San Joaquin
Section

Greetings from the "ag-belt". It looks like an exciting year for our section. New officer's include myself as President, John Bryon (Modesto) as Vice-President, and Debbie Daniels (Stanislaus Co.O.E.) as new secretary; of course, Sam Vaughn will continue as our eminent treasurer. A hearty "thank you" to Joe Brucia (Merced) for an exemplary job as past President.

Well, there's good news and bad news: good news is that Sam Vaughn has the honor of having a school in Ceres U.S.D. named after him for his 32 years of service to the Ceres district. This is a great honor; Sam Vaughn, a legend in his own time. Bad news is that our San Joaquin Section has only 37 active members; that's abominable. So, my

main goal (along with the State goals) is to increase membership, and, hopefully provide the leadership to propel our Section to new heights of fame, notoriety, and glory.

We'll be having our annual "Bass Lake Retreat" on Sept. 24, 25 at the Pines. The program will include legislation, relevant issues, "caring & sharing" open forum, and, dealing with stress and maintaining sanity in this often "crazy" C.W.A. profession. Cost of the Bass Lake fling will be nominal, PLUS, dinner Friday evening and the (usual) "country style" breakfast on Saturday (Yum!). So, hope to see all current members at Bass Lake; bring along new members, guys and gals - we need to increase membership; we already know we're the "class act" of all the other sections. P.S.: there will also be a Section meeting at Bass Lake on Saturday morning - need your ideas for our state "Spring Conference", '94.

Thought for the day: "The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it".

THE RED FILE

Can you have a prayer before school in the morning before raising the flag? Can a teacher lower a grade for poor attendance? If a parent wants to change a students name, can they do so? Can expelled students work?

Historically, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Attendance and Administrative Services Unit of the Division of Educational Support Services, has maintained a "Red File" on a variety of those "most frequently questioned" subject areas.

The files represent the latest research on each topic as noted by the date at the top of each file. Each includes a generic title, scope and definition, a list of common questions and their answers, "things to watch out for",

and a listing of helpful references and resources. The references that are easily replicable have been included with each "Red File" and noted on the cover sheet. References available only in the form of books are not included. If you have trouble finding a source for any of the listed resources not provided, please contact any Southern Section CASCWA officer.

Although the files have been developed for CASCWA members, each Section will be responsible for making provisions to make the "RED FILE" available to their new members. Approximately 30 "Red Files" complete the payment of dues. The full set may be purchased by non-members for \$40.00, or \$3.00 for individual "Red Files".

Purchase orders will not be accepted. Orders may be forwarded to Mrs. Lillie Wilson with the appropriate check made out to CASCWA, Southern Section.



BAY SECTION SCHEDULES BUSY YEAR



PAT GARDETTO
President
Bay Section

Welcome back CASCWA friends and new members to another challenging school year. I hope you enjoyed the cherished pleasure of relaxing, reflecting and participating in activities time never seems to permit during the regular work year.

Bay Section is busy planning exciting events for the months ahead. Currently in the organizational phase of designing a "kick-off" workshop scheduled for September 24, 1993. The one day conference will be held at the Alameda County Office of Education. Topics will include: The State of Our Children - School Report Card, Hate-Motivated Behavior and Crime, Weapons on Campus, Search and Questioning of Juveniles. Knowledgeable presenters

who have developed a special interest and expertise in these areas will be invited to provide updated information and intervention strategies that address these critical issues.

Bay Section will continue to schedule quarterly luncheon meetings. As usual, the executive board will meet in the morning. A luncheon and presentation will follow. We look forward to relevant presentations, interesting discussions and time to network with friends and colleagues. Bay Section members, please make note of the following dates and mark your calendars accordingly. Meetings will be held November 19, 1993, January 21, 1994, and June 3, 1994.

Bay Section membership drive is underway. Bob Brazil, Bob Burgess and Al Mendizabal are working together to reproduce new membership applications. Recruiting plans are being developed. We hope to increase our membership by at least 50%.

In June, 1993, Bay Section awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to a student who graduated from a continuation high school. She will continue her education at Ohlone Junior College and major in early childhood education.

Speaking for all Bay Section members, I would like to express sincere appreciation to Bob Burgess for the outstanding work and valuable contributions he has made as Bay Section President during his two years in office. Fortunately, he has agreed to remain actively involved in Bay Section's affairs. Thanks Bob, for your hard work and genuine commitment to the CASCWA organization.

Congratulations to the newly elected executive board officers: Colleen Neary Bettiga, President Elect, Bob Burgess, Immediate Past President, Ellen Thompson, Secretary and Bob Brazil, Treasurer. I look forward to working with each of you as we combine our talents and expertise to promote positive change in our respective communities.

CASCWA SOUTHERN SECTION INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO BOARD SESSIONS



AGNES MOSS
President
Southern Section

Thanks to everyone for our successful Spring Conference at the Marquis Hotel in Palm Springs. Now, it is time to begin a new year with new challenges. One of our major goals this year is to increase our Southern Section Membership. At the Spring Conference, we had 38 people join CASCWA for the '93/94 year. As this school year begins, we extend an invitation to join CASCWA and introduce a colleague to this association. If each member would recruit one new member, our membership would double.

During the end of August, at Bill Ybarra's Big Bear cabin, the Southern Executive Board will meet to formulate goal and objectives for the coming year. In the past, these planning retreats have proved very beneficial and inspiring with fellowship, networking and leadership establishing a foundation for business.

The State SARB conference will be on November 9, 1993, at the Kellogg West Conference center on the campus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In July, Shirley Abrams held a planning meeting at the conference center. CASCWA along with Southern Section SARB's will host this State Conference.

All Southern Section members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meetings, which are held once a month at different locations in Southern California. We meet the first Friday of each month, for further information please call me at (213) 742-7547.



DALE TURNER



1941-1993

Madison School is not just a regular school, it's a school of freedom for the young eagles. This is a school for the bird that soars through the sky freely. Madison is a school of choice for the kids here. The biggest eagle of all is Mrs. Turner. She provides the stuff that we need, like a mother eagle. The teachers are adult eagles that teach the baby eagles so they can have a bright future in front of them, I like lots of stuff about Madison and the teachers. Madison is a cool place to be at. The teachers are very cool. Madison is a school of activity. They have a basketball team that represents our school. Madison has taught me how to take responsibilities into my own hands. Madison is getting me ready for 7th grade and stuff later on in life. I like my teacher, Mr. McLaughlin, because he has given me the freedom to

learn. Everybody here is respectful of others but when we play a game and when we get made, we curse at each other and I hate that. The biggest eagle of all I like is Mrs. Turner. When I get in trouble she always talks to me and tries to cool me down. I respect her for a teacher and also for a friend, an old friend. Right after she cools me down she gives me Hershey Kisses and sends me to class. Now that I am a full grown eagle, I know what's right from wrong and I can fly on my own.
Written by Tony Park, Madison sixth grade student.

This summer, education, CASCWA and our students lost a great friend. Dale Turner, Past State President, active CASCWA Supporter and a good friend of all of us passed away.

Your editor could think of no better way to eulogize Dale Turner than to print the above, written by one of her Rio Linda students.

CASCWA'S SAM VAUGHN HONORED



The name of Sam Vaughn - an employee for 32 years - will be attached to the new elementary school being constructed.

Ceres Unified School District's board of trustees selected Vaughn as the school's namesake on Thursday evening.

The names of the school were announced at Friday's dedication ceremony for CUSD's new administrative headquarters by Sup. Bruce Newlin.

"Come back in 13 to 14 months and we'll dedicate two new schools," Newlin told those in attendance.

Vaughn, 57, said he was "dumbfounded" when he was called into the board chambers on Thursday after the decision had been made.

"Oh, isn't that wonderful?" exclaimed Virginia "Betty" Parks, who has a school named in her honor. Parks hugged Vaughn Friday, "I'm so proud of you."

"It's a very humbling thing," noted Vaughn.

Sam Vaughn was first hired by the then Ceres School District as a teacher at the Walter White Junior High School in 1961. Mae Hensley then taught him how to administer the welfare and attendance offices. In 1965 he took over that job from Don Trammel.

SPECIAL SECTION ON VOUCHERS

Printed in the next few pages is a series of articles excerpts and comments that we felt appropriate as the voucher vote approaches. We do not present this as a comprehensive or even organized analysis of the issue, merely a presentation of some materials that might enlighten or be of use to you.Ed.

THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL LABORATORY JUST STUDIED CALIFORNIA'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS. WE SOUGHT THEIR REACTION TO AN UPCOMING BALLOT INITIATIVE THAT, IF PASSED, WOULD GIVE PUBLIC-SCHOOL FUNDS TO ANY CHILD ATTENDING A PRIVATE SCHOOL. THE *SACRAMENTO BEE* EMBRACED THE STUDY AND EDITORIALIZED: "IF A VOUCHER IS THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE EDUCATION, PIGS CAN FLY." THE GROUP PROMOTING THE INITIATIVE SAID THE STUDY IS BIASED. WE THINK IT'S CANDID, BUT FAIR. OUR SUMMARY FOLLOWS; DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

WHAT A VOUCHER COULD BUY:

A SUMMARY

California's Parental Choice in Education ballot initiative, which will appear on the June 1994 ballot, would provide all school-age children in the state with a \$2,600 "scholarship" or voucher to use at the public or private school of their choice. If the initiative passes, the \$2,600 would accompany children who transferred from public to private schools and pay or defray the tuition of children already enrolled in private schools.

In late spring 1992, the Southwest Regional Laboratory (SWRL) launched a project to gather basic information about private schools' likely responses to the Parental Choice in Education ballot proposal. SWRL mailed a survey to all private schools in California eligible to participate in such a program (i.e., those which enrolled 25 or more students).

Thirty-seven percent of the schools we surveyed, or a total of 1,004 schools, completed and returned surveys.

The findings provide an important picture of the availability, affordability, and accessibility of private schools to students from public schools who might use a \$2,600 voucher at a private school.

We asked the following key question:

If California implements the proposed Parental Choice in Education ballot initiative, or a similar measure, how likely is your school to accept transfer students from public schools in exchange for a tuition scholarship of \$2,500 or \$2,600?

KEY FINDINGS

Additional survey questions asked about the private schools' enrollment, tuition fees, admission requirements, teaching and administrative staff, salary structures, student populations, and changes that participation might precipitate in staffing, curriculum, or in school facilities.

HOW LIKELY ARE PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOUCHER PROGRAM?

Seventy-five percent say they are "very likely" or "likely" to participate and accept voucher-redeeming students from public schools.

Low-tuition schools (i.e., schools with annual tuition of less than \$2,600) and moderate-tuition schools (i.e., schools charging between \$2,600 to \$4,999 annually) are especially receptive to the prospect of vouchers; over 80% of them are either very likely or likely to accept students from public schools.

Only 56% of high-tuition schools (i.e., schools charging \$5,000 or more annually) think they'll participate.

Catholic and other religious schools view vouchers more favorably than nonreligious schools; 84% of the former would accept voucher students, while only 62% of nonreligious schools expect to participate.

WHAT KINDS OF SCHOOLS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VOUCHER STUDENTS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

• Private schools interested in accepting voucher students—Catholic and low-tuition schools—tend to be twice as large in terms of student enrollment, as other private schools; still private schools are so varied that parents will have a choice of schools of different sizes.

• On average, Catholic and low-tuition schools have larger classes and higher student-to-teacher ratios than other private schools.

THE SCHOOLS MOST LIKELY TO BE OPEN TO VOUCHER STUDENTS HAVE LARGER CLASSES THAN OTHER CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS.

The schools most interested in taking public school students, namely Catholic and low-tuition schools, also are among the largest private schools, with larger

classes and higher student-to-teacher ratios. Nevertheless, there is a lot of variation; therefore, parents will have some choice.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL SELECT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS.

Currently, grade-level achievement is the primary academic admissions criterion in private schools. Few schools expect to compromise academic standards or change the achievement profile of their students under a voucher program. Therefore, private schools will not serve as an alternative for public school students who are doing poorly academically. Such students will find few openings. Any child from a public school without access to a car may have difficulty getting to and from private schools. Very few private schools provide buses, and public transportation is not widely used.

A \$2,600 VOUCHER WILL PAY THE TUITION TO MOST PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, BUT TO ONLY ONE OF FIVE HIGH SCHOOLS.

One criticism of a voucher program fixed at \$2,600 is that it would subsidize

middle-income parents choosing to pay higher tuition than the poor can afford. Our data indicate that this criticism applies to only one third of private schools. Elementary schools are particularly affordable while the majority of high schools charge more than \$2,600. Students from low-income families would be able to afford the tuition to most elementary schools. The voucher would help defray some of the costs at high schools and would help moderate-income families, as well.

HOW MANY SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VOUCHER STUDENTS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

- Most private schools are nearly full; half of the voucher-receptive schools can expand by less than 15% without additional construction or staffing.
- Less than 1% of public school students can expect to find additional spaces in private schools under existing conditions; even the most generous estimates yield no more than a 6% expansion.
- High-tuition schools have the least room; 25% are at enrollment capacity and 75% can expand by no more than 15%.
- Catholic schools and other religious schools also tend to be full; over 50% of Catholic schools responding to the survey are at 95% capacity (although additional spaces may be available in some underenrolled schools and in schools that are currently closed and could be re-opened).

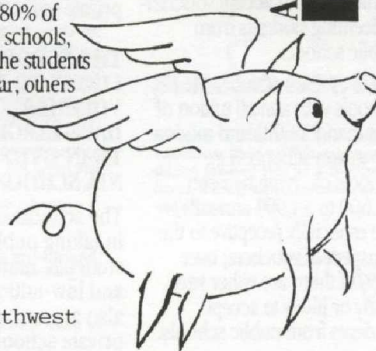
HOW AFFORDABLE ARE VOUCHER-RECEPTIVE PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

- Most schools willing to accept students with vouchers from public schools are affordable; 62% charge \$2,600 per year, the amount of California's proposed voucher.
- Catholic schools are the most affordable; 90% charge less than \$3,000 per year. Catholic elementary schools are the most affordable; 94% of elementary schools, but only 41% of high schools, charge less than \$2,600 tuition.
- Tuition may increase slightly under a voucher program; 40% of the voucher-receptive schools now charging under \$2,600 say they would increase their annual tuition if they participated in a statewide voucher program.

WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

- Private schools are most accessible to students with satisfactory academic qualifications; 78% of voucher-receptive schools require prospective students to demonstrate grade-level achievement.
- Students who live far from the private school of their choice will find limited school access by bus or public transportation; in 80% of voucher-receptive schools, three quarters of the students arrive by private car; others walk to school.

CONCLUSION



The initial effects of a voucher program such as the one proposed in California will not be as far-reaching nor as dramatic as choice proponents suggest.

A VOUCHER PROGRAM WILL AFFECT AN EXTREMELY SMALL PORTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Few spaces are available for students from public schools. In fact, we estimate that only about 43,000 public school students, or fewer than 1% of California's public school enrollment, can expect to find spaces in private schools.

THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS MOST LIKELY TO ACCEPT VOUCHER STUDENTS ARE LOWER PRICED WITH RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS.

Substantially fewer high-tuition, nonreligious schools are receptive to a voucher program. Parents can expect only limited access to those schools.

ORDER YOUR OWN

The complete report, *What a Voucher Could Buy: A Survey of Private Schools*, by Marcella R. Dianda and Ronald G. Corwin, is available from the Communications Office, SWRL. 64 pp. for \$14.95, prepaid.

Voucher Initiative Information

The following information was prepared by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). ACSA is an active participant in the coalition effort to defeat the voucher proposal that will be on the November 2, 1993 state ballot. The name of the coalition is the Committee to Educate Against Vouchers (CEAV); members include ACSA, CSBA, CFT, CTA, CSEA, SEIU, and the PTA.

Summary of the Initiative

Provides scholarships (estimated to be \$2,600) to the parents of children enrolled in private schools in the state.

Requires a 3/4 vote of the legislature to enact any new regulations on private schools.

Enables schools to adopt codes of conduct and dismiss pupils who either violate such codes or are deemed to be deriving no substantial academic benefit.

Specifies that public school funding (Prop. 98) shall be reduced to cover the cost of the vouchers (estimated to be \$1.3 billion just for those pupils currently in private school), plus an equivalent amount to produce "savings" for a total initial reduction of \$2.6 billion.

Requires the legislature to adopt a process for allowing existing public schools to become private, voucher-redeeming schools.

TOP 10 REASONS TO OPPOSE THE VOUCHER INITIATIVE

1. **Storefront schools** - The initiative would allow anyone who can attract 25 student to create a private school and receive taxpayer - funded vouchers. There would be no requirements for teachers or administrators to have college degrees or professional training, no standards or test to ensure teacher or student competence, no standards to define the teaching of reading, math, science, history or civics.

2. **No learning improvement** - The measure does nothing to improve learning in either public or private schools. It does nothing to improve teacher quality, reduce classroom size, improve discipline, add textbook or teaching aids, or improve public safety.

3. **Discrimination permitted** - Parents don't get to choose their child's school; private schools get to choose which children they'll accept. The initiative allows private schools to discriminate based on income level, gender, IQ testing, athletic ability, religion or disability.

4. **Billions less for public schools** - The initiative would take \$2.6 billion out of the existing public school budget - a 10 percent reduction - even if not one student transfers to a private school.

5. **No accountability** - The initiative would effectively prohibit new laws to regulate schools that redeem vouchers. Private schools don't make public reports to school boards and they can keep all their business records secret. If a new private school goes out of business mid-year, there are no provisions to get the public's money back from the failed school.

6. **Public money for private schools** - Half of the cut to the public schools would represent a transfer to wealthy private schools to pay for the students who already attend their schools.

7. **Prop. 98 funding cut** - For every additional student lured away from the public schools, the initiative cuts the funding for two students out of Proposition 98. Public schools lose the ADA money for the pupil, plus they have to pay for the voucher, plus public schools are cut an additional \$2,600 to produce "savings".

8. **Public schools could go private** - The initiative allows existing neighborhood schools to be converted into private schools run by a church or private corporation, with no reimbursement to taxpayers and no guarantee that neighborhood students could attend.

9. **No proven benefit** - Despite public perception, private schools as a whole do not do a better job of educating children than public schools do overall. There is no demonstrable pupil benefit to justify the enormous cost of the initiative.

10. **Needy hurt most** - By reducing funding for public schools, the initiative would most deeply hurt California's needy children - those least likely to be accepted by, or be able to travel to, a good private school.

Source: ACSA Governmental Relations Director, Bob Wells

TEAM TAGGING YOUNG VANDALS IN THREE-DAY STING

by Cerise A. Valenzuela - The Sun

Rialto-Members of the city's Street Crime Attack Team pulled 14 people out of high school classes Tuesday and arrested them on suspicion of vandalism in the first day of a three-day anti-graffiti sting.

All were students at Eisenhower High School.

Officers plan to arrest about 50 people through Thursday and cite them for spraying graffiti recently throughout Rialto. They will target youths at Rialto High School, Rialto Middle School, Ben F. Kolb Middle School, Frisbie Middle School and Milor High School.

All 14 arrested - 13 juveniles and one adult-were cited on vandalism charges. Three were also cited for possession of spray paint and markers, a delayed charge stemming from a recent incident in which they were questioned while driving through the city after curfew.

The city spent \$106,000 from June 1992 to Feb. 1 to combat graffiti. Recently the city council responded to rising graffiti removal costs by passing an ordinance making it unlawful for anyone to sell spray paint to people younger than 18. Merchants are required to keep spray paint and indelible ink markers in locked cabinets. The ordinance also says the city will collect fines and reimbursement for any damage caused by vandalism or graffiti.

One SCAT officer said he hopes the stiff ordinance and this week's sting will stop some of the graffiti painting in the city.

"Before it was a mild priority with the city and now it's a high priority because of how much the city spends and how it makes the city look," said Officer William Farrar.

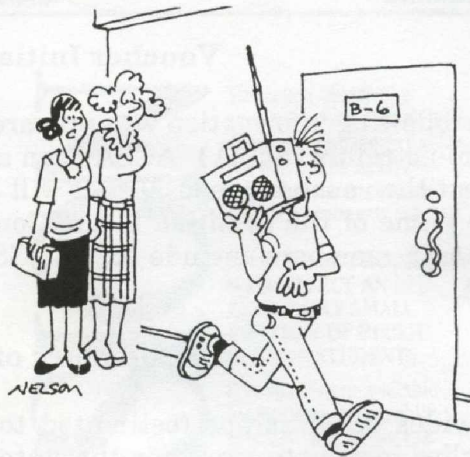
Several of the students arrested, included Julio Eullogue, 18, had been arrested before or questioned by police. About 95 percent admitted to being members of one of 50 tagging groups in the city, having tag monikers and spraying graffiti on walls and businesses.

In most cases, the students were held at the police station until family members came to pick them up. Most parents were supportive of the police, Farrar said. But some parents said that while they knew their sons had taggers, they thought they had stopped.

Now it's up to the courts, said Farrar. The students must appear in juvenile traffic court in June. They face fines of \$270 to \$685 and 40 to 100 hours of community service.

"Unfortunately it takes something like this to make believers out of parents," said Edna Herring, principal of Eisenhower High School.

"They're not bad kids. Some are misguided. But they are seeking positive attention and they seek it in ways like this."



"We took his radio away once and we found his head is just one big echo chamber."

TEEN WITH AN ATTITUDE SAYS, "I ALREADY BLEW IT"

by Rebecca Fairley Randy, The Sun

Shawn McMillan spends his days now pretty much the way he did before he dropped out of school. He gets up late. Cleans house. Calls friends. Someone has a party. Good times for all.

The lifestyle started back in seventh grade, when he learned the thrill of ditching class.

"Why go to school?" he says. "The consequences are nothing".

It was a game.

Now, at 17, McMillan is not sure whether he won or lost.

He's got a theory on life: Being young is for having fun. And school doesn't fit into that scheme.

It's just boring. School is a waste of my time. You make a check in a bubble. You say, "Whoa, this is really teaching me a lot."

He can remember a couple of times when school kept his interest:

When he was in the Opportunity program in San Bernardino's Serrano Middle School—a small class with a shorter school day for students with attendance problems—and when he played football for Pacific High School.

But it wasn't enough to hold his attention.

He says no one tried to help him. No one really cared if he made it to class or not.

"The teachers always had a basically negative attitude: 'We're giving you one more chance. That's how we're helping you'."

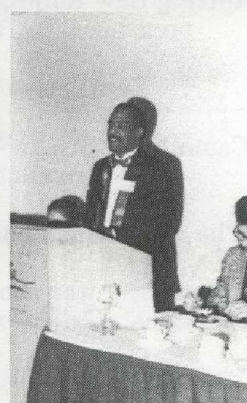
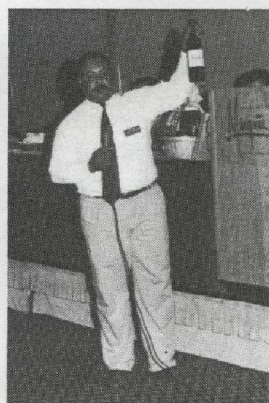
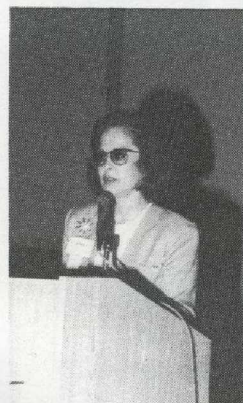
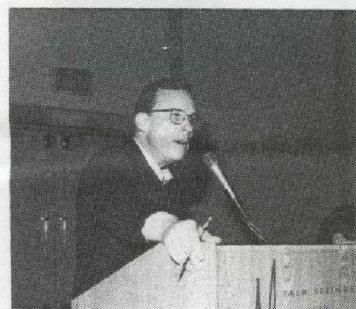
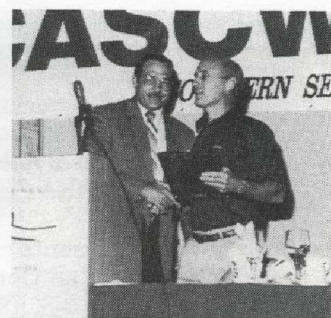
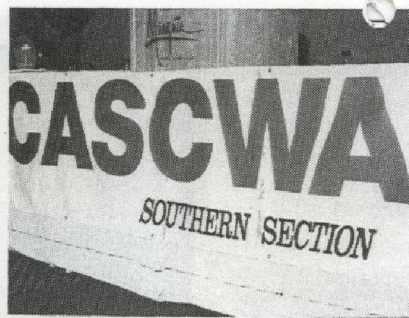
McMillan is not too worried right now about repercussions of dropping out. He figures his future will work out.

"The reason I don't regret it is because I look back and say, 'Hey I had a lot of fun.' Living to the full extent. Nobody says, 'Hey, remember first period last year when we were doing that math?'"

"It won't hold me back in construction. And I can always drive a truck."

But then he stops and thinks again. And his tone gets softer.

"It might hold me back in something. Who knows what I might want to do someday? I already blew it."



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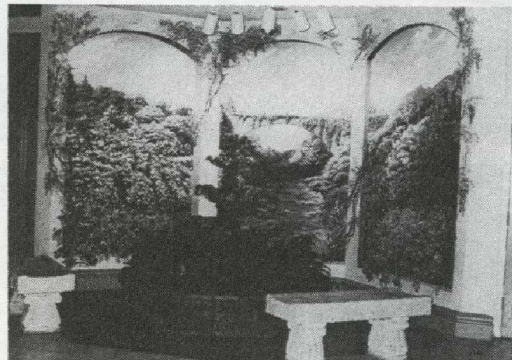
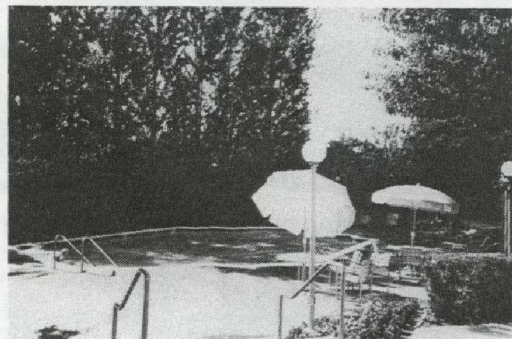
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